

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
RETREAT MINUTES  
Hyde Park Community Facility  
201 S. Greenwood  
October 5, 2013  
9:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Ron Allen, Cindy Claycomb, Steve Hieger, Hoyt Hillman, Tom Roth

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Christina Butler, Clerk, Karen Holmes, Recreation Superintendent, David McGuire, Forestry and Maintenance Superintendent, Troy Hendricks, Interim Golf Division Manager.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:45am.

**Item 1: City Codes about Use of River in Times of Floods**

Kupper stated that the Board needs to start the work on revising the codes. He has a meeting set with Police, Fire, and Stormwater.

**Section 9.27.100**

Claycomb suggested looking at Section 9.27.100 regarding tying at the dock. She asked if there was concern with the new dock behind Gander Mountain.

Kupper responded that it did not apply because it is on the Big Arkansas River.

Claycomb asked Hillman if he thought there were any issues on the Little Arkansas River.

Hillman responded it was probably not a good idea to leave a boat on the Little Arkansas River.

Kupper noted that the adjacent property owner owns to the middle of the river.

**Section 9.27.200**

Claycomb moved on to Section 9.27.200 regarding high water levels and asked if there was still a boat ramp in Central Riverside Park. If not, that statement needs to be removed.

Kupper agreed.

**Section 9.27.080, 9.29.110 and 9.29.060**

Claycomb stated that the Arkansas River Coalition had talked to the Board about collecting fees and the 150' from the Lincoln Dam has to be corrected as well.

**Section 9.29.090**

Kupper stated it could be changed to suspend public use of the river during festivals.

Claycomb and Frye agreed with this suggestion.

Section 9.29.110

Claycomb agreed with Hillman to have staff work on an MOU with the Arkansas River Coalition before changing the code.

Hillman noted that the Arkansas River Coalition takes donations only. There is no set fee.

Frye added that River Vista would have an impact on this as well.

Section 9.29.140

Hillman noted that there are currently no signs regarding prohibiting tying boats. He suggested the need for clearly designated areas from 21<sup>st</sup> Street to the City limits to the south.

Section 9.29.170

Claycomb agreed that they may need to eliminate this.

Section 9.29.200

Hillman asked if there needs to be a permit process.

Kupper responded that this code was in place when they had law enforcement available to enforce the codes.

Claycomb stated that if the intent is to be for power boats, then it needs to be changed.

Frye asked when these codes were drafted.

Kupper responded in the 1990's.

Section 9.29.250

Hillman asked if 30 days was too far in advance for plans to be submitted for written consent.

Kupper responded he would hate to decrease this timeframe due to necessary planning.

McGuire added that Wichita Rowing Association and Wichita State University submit schedules to the City in a timely manner.

Kupper stated he liked the 30 days notice.

Section 9.29.260

Hillman noted that he had researched other cities and most define flow rate. He hoped that the City would go in this direction as well.

Kupper stated the question is who has the authority to make the final decision. He had thought that once the river was within its bank it was ok. However, it was flowing too fast. There needs to be discussion on who has the authority over the river.

McGuire noted that there were some citizens who wanted to have permission to be on the river in those circumstances with the river flowing faster than normal.

Frye asked if there were buoys in the river.

Kupper responded no.

Claycomb asked what was by the tennis courts.

Kupper responded that they were debris catchers.

Claycomb asked Hillman if his suggestions were based off of guidelines or ordinances from other cities. She stated she would be in favor of making the ordinances easier to understand and enforce if possible, but they still may need the ordinances.

Frye stated that citizens need to be able to utilize the river more frequently.

Claycomb asked if the River Vista project will be on City Council's agenda for the following Tuesday.

Kupper responded that it may be on the agenda.

Hillman asked if he could be present at the meeting with Police, Fire, Stormwater and Legal regarding the topic of Use of River City Codes.

Kupper stated that normally private citizens are not in the meetings.

Claycomb added that Hillman could get a preview of the river ordinances before it comes back to the Board similar to what happened when working on special events new policy.

Kupper stated he would bring periodic updates to the Board for review and they could make revisions before going to City Council.

Frye thanked Hillman for the points he made.

**Item 2A: Community Engagement Opportunities Aquatics Master Plan**

Kupper asked if there were any board members who would like to be the appointee for the meetings to sit on the planning group meetings for framing questions to the community. He stated the plan has already been formulated, but it has to be taken out to the community. He asked if anyone wanted to be specifically involved in this process.

Frye asked if it would be on the October 22 City Council meeting agenda.

Kupper responded yes, but they need to have engagement with the community. They need to ask what the community would like to replace the closed pool. There is a developed plan done and now need to decide what to do with the land mass. They want City Council to understand the plan so they can initiate money for Edgemoor's pool replacement.

Claycomb stated she would like to see when the meetings are scheduled and see if someone can attend. She was comfortable that staff is familiar with the plan and they would be best to explain it to community.

Kupper wanted to present it to the Board so they could either speak as Park Board members or private citizens in the engagement meetings.

Frye stated they could not have gotten through the golf meetings without engagement with the community.

Kupper stated he did not want statements taken out of context if they are not the representative of the board.

Claycomb asked if someone wants to be a spokesperson for the Park Board.

Frye stated if someone wants to do it, they can advise Brian and he will add it to the November agenda.

**Item 2B: Community Engagement Opportunities Kansas Wildlife Exhibit**

Kupper stated he anticipated starting discussions in January 2014 which would be a similar timeframe as the Watson Park Master Plan.

Frye stated the need to find out what the community wants similar to the golf community engagement meetings. There is 2015 repurposing in the budget. He stated they would go to surrounding neighborhoods and asked where they would go.

Kupper stated they could go to the Audubon Society, Riverside Neighborhood Association, and others.

Frye stated if anyone was interested in being on this committee to let him know and it would be brought back to the Board on the November agenda along with the Watson planning.

Frye mentioned that the Park Board still needed another Board member and to let him know if they knew of someone who was interested in being on the Board.

Claycomb asked if the Board could get the MOU for the Arkansas River Coalition to review at the November or December meeting. She asked if the Board had to vote on it.

Kupper responded there was no need to vote on it. He had heard the Board's intent and would go to Legal to see if they could proceed.

**Item 3: Review of Board Goals and Objectives for 2013**

Frye began discussion of the 2013 Goals and Objectives. He stated he would like to have more engagement with the community on the state of the parks.

Frye asked Butler to send the link for the PROS plan to all Board members. He also asked if there was a link to send on the Good Clancy park elements.

Butler noted she would forward the links.

Kupper stated that Anthimedes was moving on with his plan and would be submitting it to the downtown committee.

Hillman stated he had talked with Larry Hoetmer about signage to direct people to greenways, and

parks as well as the museums on the river. He stated he would like to see that on the 2014 Goals.

Frye stated they may need a Park Board member as an ex-officio on PARC Foundation for the 2014 Goals.

Frye stated the Board needed more engagement with the community for the state of the parks. He noted they are making strides on the goals, but there are still some areas that need improvement.

Claycomb agreed with the points that were made.

Frye stated that League 42 has great potential for McAdams Park, youth and facilities in the area. It is a great opportunity for the baseball fields in that park and they need to maximize those opportunities.

Allen added that the Aquatics plan to replace the closed pool will be beneficial to the park as well as the League 42 opportunity. These could revitalize the park.

Kupper stated that League 42 and the Ripken Foundation have promised \$200,000 for funding. Jackie Robinson's family has signed on, as well as the MLB. There is a golf tournament hosted by the Wagonmasters at MacDonald Golf Course with proceeds going towards the goal of \$3 million for this effort. It will have a minimum of three (3) junior fields and will improve the senior field.

Hillman added he would like a water conservation item on the 2014 goals. He added that the Stryker fields have water tables where they could water their own fields instead of using City water.

Kupper stated he is ready to sign an agreement with the Ripken Foundation. He could also have an agreement to turf Stryker field too.

Hieger asked how long the fields will last.

Kupper responded about 20 years.

#### **Item 4: Board Goals and Objectives for 2014**

Frye suggested moving the PARC Fund as its own goal #4 as mentioned in previous 2013 Goals discussion.

Frye suggested adding partnerships with other school districts and organizations. Thus not limiting the Board to USD 259 and the YMCA, they could allow partnerships with League 42, Goodsports and other school districts.

Frye stated that the new Southeast High School borders park property.

Roth asked if they had acquired property near there.

Kupper stated they had 100 acres called Means property. It is open space land with cedar trees and 40 acres that have never been farmed. The City receives oil royalties from there. It is on the southwest corner of the county line road. They need to find the agreement with Sunflower Title on signage.

Claycomb stated that signage for the Bicycle Master Plan was a big deal and there is an on-going committee committed to this effort.

Kupper noted that other signs will have to be changed as well because buildings are changing from Neighborhood City Hall offices to Offices of Community Engagement.

Frye noted that the timing is right since they have to change their signs due to the new name.

Claycomb asked if they have reduced the number of Neighborhood Assistants.

Kupper responded they have been reduced to three: Kelli Gier, Teri Dozal, and Megan Buckmaster. LaShonda Grimes accepted another position.

Kupper stated that the City had partnered with the Federal government to get people to Federal facilities. The department has applied for a FLAP Grant for Chisholm Creek Park in order to get money to repave the K-96 bike path. The bike path will be extended to GPNC (Great Plains Nature Center) because it is a Federal building. The City will put up 20% (\$125,000) and may get almost \$900,000 to refurbish the bike paths in need of repair at Chisholm Creek Park. They should hear back on the grant in the first part of November. They have also set aside trails money to pave the walkway around north Chisholm Lake.

Hillman suggested adopting revised River Ordinances under point #5.

Butler will revise goals and send to the Board.

**Item 5: Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

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**Bryan Frye, President**

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**Christina Butler, Clerk**